

Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

2006 Refuge Deer Hunt Regulations

Hunting shall be in accordance with all applicable Refuge, State, and Federal regulations. *You are responsible for knowing all regulations. Violations of regulations will result in the cancellation of your hunt permit and may lead to prosecution in Federal Court.*

Hunters utilizing the refuge are subject to inspections of permits, licenses, equipment, bag limits, vehicles and their contents during compliance checks by Refuge Officers, State Wildlife Officers, and other state/local law enforcement officers.

Regulation changes and clarifications for 2006 are underlined and in bold.

Season

October: 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, November 3, 4. Rain dates: October 26, November 2 (if necessary).

Species To Be Hunted

White-tailed deer, either sex

Bag Limit

Virginia – Per State regulations

North Carolina – Per State regulations

Permits

A refuge permit, signed by the permittee, and the appropriate State hunting license and tags are required. A non-refundable fee of \$15.00 will be charged for each permit and the permit will be valid for all scheduled scouting and hunt dates on the refuge. **ACCESS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED WITHOUT A SIGNED PERMIT AND A COMPASS.** Permit application deadline is September 15, 2006. Signing the permit means you agree to abide by all terms and conditions of that permit including all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Scouting

An official scouting day will be held on September 30 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Only hunters with signed permits and a compass will be allowed access into the refuge hunting areas on the scouting day. Guests will not be allowed to enter with permit holders.

Hunting Hours

Hunters will be admitted into the refuge approximately one hour before legal hunting hours. Hunters should not arrive at the entrance gates before 4:00 am. Hunters must leave the refuge and sign out no later than one hour after legal hunting hours.

Refuge Check-in/Check-out

All hunters must sign in and sign out at one of the three refuge entrance points each time they enter and leave the refuge. Failure to sign in and/or out will result in permit revocation and prosecution in Federal Court. **Access to the refuge hunt areas will be provided only through the designated entrances at Jericho Lane, Portsmouth Ditch, and Corapeake Ditch. Due to forest management activities, the Railroad Ditch entrance will be closed for the 2006 deer hunt season. In addition, in the Corapeake Ditch entrance, the area north of Corapeake Ditch Road and east to Forest Line Ditch Road will be a no hunting zone (See enclosed map).** When an entrance reaches capacity, that area is closed to all other hunters for the day, even if a hunter checks out. Some areas or entrances may be closed for management activities or emergencies (See Delays and Cancellations).

Firearms and Ammunition

- Only 20 gauge shotgun or larger, and/or bow and arrow in accordance with State regulations is permitted.
- Hunters may use and have in their possession only buckshot and or rifled slugs.
- All other firearms are prohibited.
- **You must unload, and encase or dismantle firearms transported via motorized vehicles on all refuge roads.**
- Possession of a loaded firearms (includes any ammunition in the chamber, magazine or clip) on or within 50 feet of a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles is prohibited.

Hunter Orange

All hunters are required to wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored blaze orange on their chest, shoulders, back, and head during the hunt. **Camouflage hunter orange does not meet this requirement. A hat alone does not meet this requirement - a vest or other upper body garment is recommended to meet the requirement.**

Tree Stands

- Take the time to become thoroughly familiar with the proper procedures for using your tree stand. Exercise extreme care with its use.
- The use of nails, wire, screws, or bolts to attach a stand to tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven for support, is strictly prohibited.
- Tree stands must be removed from the refuge at the end of each hunt day. Hunters will not be permitted to return to retrieve their stands.

Foot Bridges and Car Top Boats

Some of the deeper ditches have foot bridges to facilitate access to hunt areas. All require caution when crossing and are slippery when wet. Car top boats may also be used to cross in these ditches.

Delays and Cancellations

Hunts may be cancelled due to high fire danger or when rain or other inclement weather renders refuge roads unsafe to travel. In addition, rain delays can also occur on any day after the initial opening of the hunt. Decisions on weather cancellations of the hunt will be based on actual weather conditions and the 36-hour weather forecast from the National Weather Service. Significant precipitation on the day before a hunt, or a weather forecast of a 60% chance (or greater) for precipitation on the day of the hunt will result in the cancellation of that day's hunt. If a cancellation is necessary, every effort will be made to make that decision by noon of the day before the scheduled hunt. If any hunt dates are cancelled due to weather or road conditions, additional hunt dates will be scheduled on October 26 and November 2 to replace the cancelled dates. No other "make up" dates will be provided.

Please call 757/986-3705 if the status of any scheduled hunt date is questionable. This hunt information line will provide the latest hunt information 24 hours a day effective noon, September 29.

Also Prohibited

- Access to refuge at any location other than through designated entrances to hunt areas at Jericho Lane, Portsmouth Ditch, and Corapeake Ditch Roads.
- The use of boats on Lake Drummond, the Feeder Ditch, or the Dismal Swamp Canal to access hunting areas.
- Hunting on any area that is not designated as part of the refuge hunt area by signs or current hunt map.
- Shooting from or across a refuge road including roads closed to vehicles.
- Driving motorized vehicles off the roads and/or on roads closed to vehicles.
- Parking vehicles in any manner which blocks roads (including roads closed to vehicles).
- The use of permanent markers, such as paint, to locate stands or trails.
- Baiting or hunting over bait.
- Possession of alcoholic beverages.
- Camping and all overnight use.
- **Possession of dogs on the refuge during any designated hunt date without a valid dog retrieval permit. If you are retrieving dogs under a dog retrieval permit you may not possess a firearm or bow.**
- Rifles, pistols, dogs, fires, littering, and the use of boat trailers.

Safety and Other Regulations

1. In case of an emergency call 911. Staff can be reached at 757/ 986-3705 between the hours of 7:30 am and 9:00 pm on Thursdays and Fridays, and from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Saturdays.
2. As a requirement of your permit, you must carry a compass in your possession at all times. Know how to use it!
3. Be sure the phone number which appears on your permit is a current number for emergency contact while you are hunting on the refuge. If the number has changed, please write the correct number on your permit and contact the refuge office during normal business hours with the new number.
4. Refuge wide speed limit is 25 mph on all refuge roads unless posted otherwise. Radar and other speed measuring devices are used to enforce speed limits.
5. The standard procedure for the search of an overdue hunter is to sound a siren next to the vehicle that is suspected to be the “lost” hunter’s. If you are overdue in checking out and hear a siren you should respond by blowing a whistle or yelling.
6. Carry a hand saw in your vehicle. A tree falls somewhere on the refuge nearly every day. You may need to cut your way out.

7. Use extreme caution when pulling off the roadways. Road shoulders can be very soft.
8. The signs located throughout the refuge are posted for your safety as well as to help protect the resources. Adhere to all posted signs while on the refuge.



This sign indicates that absolutely no hunting is permitted beyond this point.



This **YELLOW** sign indicates that absolutely no access is permitted beyond this point (foot, bicycle and vehicle).



The area beyond this **BROWN** sign is closed to vehicles but remains open to foot and bicycle access.

9. In addition to the required permit and compass, it is recommended that you keep the following items with you while hunting on the refuge:

- **Food and Water**
- **Flashlight**
- **Layered Clothing**
- **Matches or Lighter**
- **Whistle (A coastguard approved boat whistle is suggested)**